



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Sept. 18, 2007

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North Dakota Dentists Reach Out to Needy by Donating Dental Services

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Donated Dental Services Program provided oral health care to 116 of North Dakota's most vulnerable individuals during fiscal year 2006, according to Kimberlie Yineman, Oral Health Program director for the North Dakota Department of Health.

The Donated Dental Services Program is a partnership between the North Dakota Department of Health's Oral Health Program, the North Dakota Dental Association, and the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped. Donated Dental Services is one of the nation's largest dental health volunteer programs.

"The Donated Dental Services Program is a community of volunteer dental-health professionals who make a difference in the lives of the often overlooked at-risk population of elderly, disabled or medically compromised individuals who cannot afford dental care and are not eligible to receive public aid such as Medicaid or Medicare," said Joe Cichy, executive director for the North Dakota Dental Association.

In 2006, 120 volunteer dentists and 11 volunteer dental labs participated in the program in North Dakota. "The volunteers, generous in spirit and kind in heart, are giving back to their communities by giving smiles to the faces of those most in need," Yineman said

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The value of the donated treatment services in 2006 was \$194,659. Since the program began in 2000, 279 individuals have received comprehensive dental care, with the value of services reaching \$602,838.

Individuals who need care can contact the Donated Dental Services Program coordinator at 866.572.9390 (toll-free).

For more information about the Donated Dental Services Program, contact Kimberlie Yineman, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4930 or Joe Cichy, North Dakota Dental Association, at 701.223.8870. Additional information about the Donated Dental Services Program in North Dakota can be found at http://nfdh.org/joomla_nfdh/content/view/75/112/.

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